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STOWMARKET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR,

MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTOR,

SHOPS ACT INSPECTOR,

and

SALVAGE OFFICER,

J. S. FISHER, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

for the year

1959.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	-	Doctor Kathleen M. Harding, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.
Chief Public Health Inspector	-	Jack S. Fisher, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	-	Kenneth Whiteley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

July, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1959.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year Home Population, Registrar General's figures)	7,640
Inhabited Houses.	2,506
Rateable Value...	£116,671.
Estimated Sum represented by a penny rate...	£460.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The standardised Birth Rate has at last shown an upward trend, but at 14.66 it is still well below the National figure of 16.5.

The Stillbirth rate has fallen, but our good record for the previous year in respect of the Infant Mortality Rate has unfortunately not been maintained.

The standardised Death Rate has again risen and it is now 12.70, but whereas in 1958 the number of deaths just outnumbered the births, in 1959 there was an excess of 15 births over the number of deaths.

BIRTHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Total	62	50	112
Legitimate.	58	50	108
Illegitimate	4	nil	4

BIRTH RATE:-

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	14.66
Per 1,000 home population - England & Wales	=	16.5
Comparability Factor	=	1.01
Standardised Birth Rate.. ...	=	14.81

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Total	2	1	3
Legitimate..	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH - RATE:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births = 26.09
- do - England and Wales = 20.7

INFANT MORTALITY (Under one year).

	M.	F.	Total.
Total	1	3	4
Legitimate..	1	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	M.	F.	Total.
Total	1	2	3
Legitimate..	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

Per 1,000 live births ... ... = 35.71
- do - England and Wales = 20.0

DEATHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

	M.	F.	Total.
ALL CAUSES	59	38	97

DEATH RATE:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population = 12.70
Per 1,000 home population - England & Wales = 11.6
Comparability factor... ... ... = 1.00
Standardised Death Rate ... ... = 12.70

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total 1959.	Total 1958.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4	-
" " lung bronchus	4	1	5	-
" " breast	-	1	1	1
" " uterus	-	1	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	3	9	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	8	15	8
Coronary disease, angina	8	7	15	17
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1	4	3
Other heart disease	8	8	16	20
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5	5
Influenza	1	-	1	-
Pneumonia	3	-	3	2
Bronchitis	4	-	4	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2	-
Congenital malformations	1	1	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3	8	5
All other accidents	-	-	-	2
Suicide	1	-	1	-
Totals:-	59	38	97	80

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COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

	1957.	1958.	1959.	England & Wales 1959.
Inhabited Houses	2544	2487 (Corrected)	2506	-
Population (Registrar General's figures).	7580	7580	7640	-
Live Births	90	79	112	-
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	11.99	10.526	14.81	16.5
Deaths of Infants under One Year.	3	Nil.	4	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	33.3	Nil.	35.71	20.0
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	9.46	10.765	12.70	11.6

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from Notifications received.

Diseases.	AGES.							Total	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
	-1	1/2	3/4	5/9	10/14	15/24	25 +			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	6	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	1	2	5	6	-	-	-	14	-	-
Dysentery-Salmonella Typhimurium	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-
							Totals:-	25	-	-

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of Primary Injections in 1959 = 122.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

Number of Vaccinations = 80

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(i) New Cases notified	3	2	-	1
Transferred from another District	-	-	-	-

(ii) Ages of new and transferred cases:-

Pulmonary (Lungs).

3 Males - 67,56 & 55 years.
2 Females - 74 & 69 years.

Non-Pulmonary.

1 Female - 7¾ years.

(iii) Cases "crossed off the Register as recovered" during the year:-

5 Pulmonary - 3 Males aged 68,64 & 32 years.
2 Females, aged 38 & 28 years.

4 Non-Pulmonary - 1 Male, aged 11 years.
3 Females, aged 15,9 & 7 years.

(iv) Cases "crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death during the year:-

3 Pulmonary - 1 Male, aged 64 years.
2 Females, aged 74 & 69 years.

(v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
11	6	17	4	7	11

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Works operated satisfactorily, save for minor "teething troubles" in the early months, throughout the year.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1959.

Action taken under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959 is detailed in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1959.

ADDENDUM.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council.

It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated by break point chlorination, and is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Bacteriological and chemical analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
Stowmarket.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1959, but owing to being without assistance of any kind and the consequent inability to fully cope with the day-to-day work of the Department at the time of preparation, and to the fact that the Report will be basically similar to that of recent years, I propose to confine it to the barest details, and to elaborate only where necessary for record purposes.

As has been stated previously, the work of a Public Health Department is prevention rather than cure, and it is seldom that the work hits the headlines. Much of it never even comes to the notice of the Council, though neglect would quickly do so, and it is by virtue of the absence of these two factors that it can be claimed that the Department has continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year. It must be added, however, that the claims of Meat Inspection and of work in connection with Improvement Grants, have somewhat restricted the number of routine inspections which otherwise would have been made, and there is no room for complacency. Particularly in the realm of Housing, one is aware of the number of sub-standard houses in the Town, a number of which should undoubtedly be condemned as unfit for human habitation. Many others are lacking such amenities as bathroom, internal W.C., and hot water supply, and could be much improved with the help of a Discretionary or Standard Improvement Grant, and it is rather surprising that more advantage is not taken of one or other of these facilities. Some forty-five enquiries were dealt with during the year, almost entirely from Owner/Occupiers, and twenty-one were approved for Grant purposes.

Meat and Food Inspection was again accorded first priority, and of 29,581 animals slaughtered - 1,531 more than in the previous year - only one day's kill, representing 60 animals, was not inspected. Details of this work are as follows:-

1. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a)(i) MEAT.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2,855	1,660	156	9,705	15,205
Number inspected	2,847	1,651	154	9,696	15,173
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	11	6	54	31
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	665	467	4	513	1,572
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	23.39	29.00	6.50	5.85	10.56
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned.	7	4	1	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	68	92	5	-	421
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	2.63	5.8	3.9	-	2.78
Cysticercosis.					
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	1	*	*	*
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	23	3	*	*	*
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	23	3	*	*	*
Percentage of the number of Cattle inspected affected with Cysticercosis	0.6				

(a)(ii) Comparison with three previous years.

	1956	1957	1958	1959
(i) Animals killed.				
Cattle	2,938	4,747	6,001	4,515
Calves	255	320	303	156
Sheep and Lambs	4,115	4,296	4,598	9,705
Pigs	13,119	11,374	17,148	15,205
Totals:-	20,427	20,737	28,050	29,581
(ii) Condemned.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Meat	25,215½	26,267½	34,541	24,741½
Offal	17,649½	29,763½	39,589½	29,308½
Meat from other Districts.	18	-	-	155
Imported Meat.	-	-	28	36
(iii) Percentage of animals slaughtered affected with disease.				
All diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.				
Cattle excluding Cows	19.8	23.43	16.37	23.39
Cows	25.11	26.9	25.0	29.0
Calves	3.53	0.94	3.96	6.5
Sheep and Lambs	4.06	5.66	3.7	5.85
Pigs	4.56	6.45	10.43	10.56
Tuberculosis only.				
Cattle excluding Cows	5.49	4.3	4.7	2.63
Cows	9.33	8.26	13.7	5.8
Calves	0.39	-	0.33	3.9
Pigs	3.37	3.46	3.29	2.78
Cysticercosis.				
Cattle, including Cows.	0.61	0.72	0.58	0.6

The District was included in a "Specified Area" under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 , Section 37, declared on 16th April, 1959. Ninety-one cattle which had re-acted to the Tuberculin Test were sent in for slaughter by order of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food up to the middle of May, and 90% of the condemnations for Tuberculosis among Cattle occurred during this period. It is pleasing to know that this scourge has at last virtually been eradicated from among cattle.

(b) TINNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

	Tins	lbs.	ozs.
Fish	18	10	4½
Fruit and Conserve	216	272	15¾
Meat	69	193	1
Milk	25	17	6
Soups	42	40	4
Vegetables	105	98	6
Miscellaneous	11	7	0
Totals:-	486	639	5¼

(c) TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL FOODS CONDEMNED.

24.48 tons (approximately).

(d) DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD.

Meat and Offal - Stained with Naphthalene Green dye, and sold to Suffolk Fat and Bone Company, Oulton Broad, and to Mr. B. Dunning, Great Finborough, for processing.

Tinned and Other Foods - Buried at Council's Refuse Tip.

(e) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number licenced - 3.

(f) SLAUGHTERMAN'S LICENCES.

Renewals - 9.
New Licence - 1.

2. FOOD.

(a) Food Premises.

Number of premises inspected	-	30
Number of inspections made	-	172
Number found to be unsatisfactory	-	16
Number rendered satisfactory by informal action	-	15

(b) Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955. s.16.

For sale and storage of Ice Cream	-	30
For manufacture of Sausages etc.	-	14
Fried Fish Shops	-	5

(d) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

Number of Dairies on Register	-	3
Number of Milk Dealer's Licences issued:-		
(i) Pasteurised	-	2
(ii) Tuberculin Tested	-	3
(iii) Sterilised	-	1

3. HOUSING.

(a) New Houses - (Statistical, and not actual work of the Department.)

Council houses or flats completed during the year	-	Nil.
Houses completed by Private Enterprise	-	19.
Council Houses or Flats under construction at 31/12/59.	-	Nil.
Houses under construction by Private Enterprise at 31/12/59.	-	12.

(b) Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance.

(i) Action completed prior to 1959.

Houses demolished	-	12.
Houses or Flats closed	-	8.
Undertakings accepted and Houses made fit	-	2.

(ii) Action initiated prior to 1959, but not concluded at 31/12/59.

Clearance Order.	Address.	No. of Houses.	Result.
1956/3.	3 -7 Union Street	3.	No further action
1956/4.	15-17 Needham Road	2.	Not yet demolished
Closing Order.			
9/11/55.	17 Spring Row	1.	Not vacated.
12/12/58.	73, Bury Street	1.	Not vacated.
Demolition Order.			
5/10/57.	87 Needham Road	1.	Not vacated.
Closed Voluntarily.			
6/ 1/56	3 Spring Row	1.	Vacant
20/10/56	5 Spring Row	1.	Vacant
Closing Order.			
28/12/56.	East Cottage of Pair, Combs Ford Square.	1.	Vacant.
Closed Voluntarily.			
7/ 3/58	West Cottage of Pair, Combs Ford Square.	1.	Vacant.

(iii) Action during 1959.

(a) Orders determined on properties being made fit.

Clearance Order 1956/5. (part). - 79 Bridge Street.

Closing Order 26/3/58. - Basement Flat, 18 Finborough Road.

(b) Demolition Orders made.

6/2/59 - 3, Stricklands Road. Not yet vacated.
6/2/59 - 5, Stricklands Road. Vacated 24/10/58.

(c) Closing Order Made.

3/7/59 - 8, Union Street. Vacant 2/4/59.

(c) Houses in which defects were remedied.

After Informal Notices - 48

(d) Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 (as amended) - Improvement Grants.

(i) Discretionary Grants.

Enquiries dealt with during the year	-	36.
Approved for Grant during the year	-	20.
Amount of Grants approved during the year	-	£3,175.
Total number of Grants approved to 31/12/59.	-	53.
Total amount of Grants approved to 31/12/59.	-	£8,428.18. 9

(ii) Standard Grants.

Enquiries dealt with during the year	-	9.
Approved for Grant during the year	-	3.

4. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Number licenced for Residential use - 9.

5. WATER SUPPLY.

Sixteen samples were taken from services off the public mains, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all were reported as "excellent".

6. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

Number of Factories on Register	-	65.
Other premises on Register	-	6.
Number of Inspections	-	40.
Number of cases in which defects found and remedied.	-	8.

7. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1958.

Number of excessive smoke emissions dealt with - 10.

8. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Number of premises on the Register - 2.

9. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Licence issued - 1.

10. INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases investigated:-

Scarlet Fever	-	6.
Salmonella typhi-murium	-	3.
Faeces specimens collected and despatched to the Public Health Laboratory	-	43.

11. COMPLAINTS.

216 complaints were received and dealt with.

12. RODENT CONTROL.

Dwelling-houses treated - 232.
Other premises treated - 63.

13. REFUSE COLLECTION.

Weekly collections of house refuse were made throughout the District.

The position in regard to the provision of Refuse Bins by the Council under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, was as follows at 31st December, 1959:-

Bins supplied or renewed during the year	-	39
Total number of bins issued since December 1950	-	455
Returned to Stock for re-use	-	7
Total number written off, worn out	-	81
Total number in service at 31st December 1959	-	367

14. TRADE REFUSE.

Trade Refuse was collected regularly from 113 premises.

15. SALVAGE.

The position lost in 1958 when the Salvage Trailer was discarded was largely recovered during the second half of 1959 when a trailer was re-introduced.

Collections and sales were as follows:-

		Tons.	Cwts.
Waste paper, all grades,	in Stock 1/1/59	2.	17.
do.	collected 1959.	120.	16.
do.	sold.	119.	12.
do.	in Stock 31/12/59.	4.	1.

Proceeds of Sales, 1959 = £971.12. 0d.
Value of Stock, 31/12/59 = £36. 4. 0d.

16. CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I express thanks to all the Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and to all members of the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation. I wish to specially place on record the loyal and efficient service of Mr. Kenneth Whiteley, the Additional Public Health Inspector, during the whole of his five years' service with the Council, and who resigned early in 1960 on appointment as a District Inspector with the Hemel Hempstead U.D.C.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

J.S. FISHER.

Chief Public Health Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector,
and
Salvage Officer.